

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1 - 8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A system for sealing packages and testing seal integrity of sealed seal packages comprising:

a system housing;

a medical packaging device supported by said system housing, said medical packaging device forming a seal on at least one package by localized heating to a temperature that melts said at least one package;

a peel tester integral with said medical packaging device supported by said system housing, said peel tester having a drive mechanism that pulls apart a portion of the seal and a mechanism that collects data relevant thereto;

a microprocessor within said medical packaging device supported by said system housing and coordinating with both said medical packaging device and said peel tester; and

a cutting mechanism supported by said system housing attached to said peel tester or said medical packaging device;

wherein, said medical packaging device prompts an operator to test a sample of said sealed packages;

wherein during a seal testing operation, a sample of the seal is removed from said medical packaging device, cut to a predetermined size by operation of said cutting mechanism, and inserted into said peel tester;

wherein, said peel tester pulls apart the cut sample of the seal, collects data relevant thereto collects seal integrity data and shares said data with said microprocessor; and

wherein, said microprocessor analyzes said data to ascertain whether said data satisfies a predetermined criterion in correlation to set standards.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising an optical sensing device located adjacent to a seal platen of said medical packaging device.
11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said optical sensing device is a multi-spectrum light.
12. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said optical sensing device inspects seal integrity at said seal platen during production operation of said medical packaging device.
13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein said medical packaging device stops operation and notifies an operator when a breach in a seal is recognized by said sensing device.
14. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a handheld computing device.
15. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a modem.
16. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a visual inspection unit.
17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein said visual inspection unit is integrally located adjacent a platen of said medical packaging device.
18. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein said visual inspection unit is externally connectable to said medical packaging device.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for testing seal integrity of a package, the apparatus comprising:

a housing that supports a medical packaging device, a peel testing device and a microprocessor, the medical packaging device forming that forms a seal on the package by localized heating to a temperature that melts the package, a peel testing device having a drive mechanism that pulls apart the seal and a mechanism that collects data relevant thereto, and the a microprocessor in communication with said medical packaging device and said peel testing device.

20. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a cutting mechanism supported by said housing that is manually operated by a user to cut a sample from the package.

21. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein:

said peel testing device includes a clamping mechanism that holds the sample.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein:

said microprocessor is adapted to prompt a user to perform a peel test upon detection that said medical packaging device has performed a predetermined number of seal forming operations.

23. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein:

said microprocessor is adapted to analyze the data communicated from said peel tester device to ascertain compliance of the seal and to communicate to a user an indication of such compliance.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein:

said microprocessor is adapted to selectively enable said medical packaging device in accordance with results of analysis of the data communicated from said peel tester.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising an optical sensing device supported within said housing that inspects integrity of the seal of the package.
26. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a handheld computing device.
27. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a data communication device adapted for bi-directional data communication to an external host system.